

Senate File 2032 - Introduced

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BY BOLKCOM

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting text messaging while driving and providing
2 a penalty.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 321.276 Text messaging while
2 driving.

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "Text message" means a text-based electronic
5 communication transmitted using the short message service
6 (SMS), a wireless telephone service, or an electronic
7 communication network.

8 b. "Wireless handset" means a handheld portable electronic
9 or computing device capable of transmitting data in the form of
10 a text message. "Wireless handset" includes but is not limited
11 to a cellular telephone or personal digital assistant.

12 2. A person shall not use a wireless handset to write, read,
13 or send a text message while operating a motor vehicle.

14 3. A person convicted of a violation of this section commits
15 a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation under
16 section 805.8A, subsection 6, paragraph "e".

17 Sec. 2. Section 805.8A, subsection 6, Code Supplement 2009,
18 is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

19 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. For violations under section 321.276, the
20 scheduled fine is one hundred dollars.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill prohibits a person from using a wireless handset
23 to write, read, or send a text message while operating a motor
24 vehicle.

25 "Text message" is defined as a text-based electronic
26 communication transmitted using the short message service
27 (SMS), a wireless telephone service, or an electronic
28 communication network. "Wireless handset" is defined as a
29 handheld portable electronic or computing device capable of
30 transmitting data in the form of a text message. The term
31 includes a cellular telephone or personal digital assistant.

32 A person who engages in text messaging while operating a
33 motor vehicle commits a simple misdemeanor punishable by a
34 scheduled fine of \$100.